



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 224**

*January Session, 2015*

Substitute House Bill No. 6117

*House of Representatives, March 26, 2015*

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS, R. of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2015*) (a) Not later than September  
2 1, 2015, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, in collaboration  
3 with the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut and the  
4 Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, shall establish an  
5 open-source textbook consortium of not less than five institutions of  
6 higher education, including, but not limited to, The University of  
7 Connecticut, one state university, one regional community-technical  
8 college, Charter Oak State College and one independent institution of  
9 higher education. The consortium shall annually (1) assess the use of  
10 high-quality and affordable digital open-source textbooks and related  
11 materials to lower the cost of higher education to students, (2) promote  
12 the use of and access to open-source textbooks, and (3) collaborate for  
13 the purposes of developing and acquiring open-source textbooks. For  
14 purposes of this section, "open-source textbooks" means a college-level

15 textbook licensed under an open copyright license and made available  
16 on an Internet web site to be freely used by students, faculty and  
17 members of the public.

18 (b) Not later than January 1, 2016, and annually thereafter, the  
19 consortium of public institutions of higher education shall submit a  
20 report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
21 statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
22 having cognizance of matters relating to higher education regarding its  
23 duties described in subsection (a) of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2015	New section

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In Subsec (a), "2016" was changed to "2015" for accuracy.

***HED***

*Joint Favorable Subst. -LCO*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 16 \$</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits) <sup>1</sup>	GF - Cost	46,380	46,380
Higher Education Constituent Units	GF - Cost	160,000	160,000

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

The bill results in a state cost of \$206,380 in FY 16 and FY 17 as it requires the constituent units of higher education to annually (1) assess the use of high-quality and affordable digital open-source textbooks and related materials to lower students' higher education costs, (2) promote the use of and access to open-source textbooks, and (3) collaborate to develop and acquire open-source textbooks. The costs include a position at both the University of Connecticut and the Board of Regents for Higher Education to assess and promote the usage of such textbooks in addition to collaborating with participating institutions. The total cost for both positions is \$120,000. Other costs include fringe benefits of \$46,380 and \$40,000 to operate workshops, seminars and conferences, establish and update a website.

### **The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

<sup>1</sup>The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 38.65% of payroll in FY 16 and FY 17.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6117*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education, by September 1, 2015 and in collaboration with the UConn Board of Trustees and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, to establish an open-source textbook consortium. The consortium must have at least five higher education institutions, including UConn, a state university, a regional community-technical college, Charter Oak State College, and one independent institution.

The bill requires the consortium to annually (1) assess the use of high-quality and affordable digital open-source textbooks and related materials to lower students' higher education costs, (2) promote the use of and access to open-source textbooks, and (3) collaborate to develop and acquire open-source textbooks. Under the bill, an "open-source textbook" is a college-level textbook licensed under an open copyright license and made available on the Internet to be freely used by students, faculty, and the public.

The consortium must report on its duties annually beginning January 1, 2016 to the Higher Education Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2015

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19      Nay 0      (03/12/2015)